

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01 SCA-01 USSS-00

ACDA-10 PA-01 PRS-01 SY-02 SSO-00 CIAE-00 SP-02

SCCT-01 RSC-01 /046 W

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R 290450Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2279

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1070

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR VS

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION BY NINE AMERICAN ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS

REFS: A) SAIGON 916; B) SAIGON 925

1. WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED WHY GVN MOVED SO QUICKLY TO EXPEL INDOCHINA RESOURCES COMMITTEE GROUP OF NINE PROTESTORS. APPARENTLY THEY HAD RECEIVED WHAT THEY REGARDED AS ACCURATE INFORMATION THAT THERE WAS A THIRD DAY PLANNED FOR THE TV CAMERAS WITH THE EMBASSY AS A BACK DROP. IN ADDITION TO BEING JOINED BY THE BUDDHIST MONKS AND NUNS FOR THE SECOND DAY, IT WAS PLANNED THAT ON THE THIRD DAY ANOTHER MONK WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO A CATATONIC STATE THROUGH "DEEP MEDITATION" WOULD IMMOLATE HIMSELF IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY.

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THIS INFORMATION WAS GOING TO BE RELEASED, WE WERE TOLD IT HAD BEEN DECIDED NOT TO SINCE THE PRESS, AND PARTICULARLY THE TV, WOULD BITTERLY RESENT THE INEVITABLE IMPLICATION THEY HAD BEEN COGNIZANT OF THE PLAN, WHICH WAS THOUGHT UNLIKELY. SINCE THEY RESPONDED AUTOMATICALLY TO ALL INVITATIONS TO COVER "THEATRICAL EVENTS" THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO REASON TO PRE-INFORM THEM THEREBY RUNNING THE RISK THAT SOME DECENT

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AMERICAN JOURNALIST WOULD BLOW THE WHISTLE ON THE PLAN.

3. WE RESPONDED TO QUESTION WHETHER WE WOULD RELEASE THIS INFORMATION WITH A SIMILAR NEGATIVE SINCE THE INCIDENT DID NOT TAKE PLACE AND IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC, OVERWHELMING PROOF, WE WOULD NOT SURFACE SUCH A STORY. OUR REPORTING STANDARDS WOULD NOT PERMIT IT.

4. WE RECOMMEND NO USE BE MADE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THIS INFORMATION BUT WE NOW BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS WORTH \$20,000 TO THE INDOCHINA RESOURCE CENTER TO SEND THESE NINE ACTIVISTS TO SAIGON. IT WOULD HAVE PROVIDED A RATHER DRAMATIC COUNTER-POINT FOR LAST MONDAY'S FINAL OF THE "NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO SAVE THE PEACE AGREEMENT" CONVOKED BY THE "PASTORAL LETTER" ISSUED FROM THE PENS OF CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED. AGAIN WE BELIEVE THE EMPHASIS IN THE "PASTORAL LETTER" ON THE WORD-ABOMINATION - WAS THE ONLY PART OF THE EXERCISE TO HAVE A DEVINE INSPIRATION.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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